EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(54) POLYSACCHARIDIC ESTERS OF N-DERIVATIVES OF GLUTAMIC ACID
POLYSACCHARIDE ESTER VON N-DERIVATEN DER GLUTAMINSÄURE
ESTERS POLYSACCHARIDIQUES DE DERIVES N- DE L'ACIDE GLUTAMIQUE

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DD-A- 267 497
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The present invention relates to new products, namely polysaccharidic esters of N-derivatives of glutamic acid (N-GA). Their use as antiproliferatives in pharmaceutics is herein described.

Several modified polysaccharides have been described in the art. They are obtained by chemical modification of some groups present on the polysaccharidic chain, such as for example the carboxylic groups, the amine groups, or the hydroxy groups with the formation of esters, amides, ethers. The application fields are several and include for example food, varnishes, analytical chemistry, cosmetics and pharmaceutics.

In the pharmaceutical area, polysaccharides are considered to be compounds suitable for the preparation of controlled drug-release compounds. They are in fact extremely well tolerated by the organism since, as for example hyaluronic acid and heparins, they are part of it.

The polysaccharides used for the controlled release of pharmacologically active molecules can be either present in a mixture with the drug (WO 99/02151) or covalently bound to it (US 4851521 and US 5733891) by means, for example, of either ester or amide bonds.

Besides their function as carriers, however, some polysaccharides have their own biological activity or they are components of the organism: for example, heparins are anticoagulant agents; hyaluronic acid is the major component of the vitreous humour and synovial fluid and is moreover commonly used in clinical practice for the treatment of osteoarthritis and arthropathies. Scleroglucan (Sizofiran®), another polysaccharide, is used in the treatment of tumours. Other sulphated polysaccharides turned out to be effective in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, retinitis and psoriasis.

The pharmaceutical use of N-derivatives of glutamic acid with inhibition activity of the dihydrofolate reductase enzyme (DHFR) is reported in the literature (Goodman & Gilman, The Pharmacological basis of Therapeutics, McGraw-Hill, 1996, pg. 1253). The enzyme DHFR is responsible for the recycling of 7,8-dihydrofolate to its reduced, physiologically active 6(R)-tetrahydro form. The availability of reduced folates is essential to support the replication of actively proliferating cells. The cytotoxic effect of N-derivatives of glutamic acid, which act as potent inhibitors of DHFR, has been ascribed to the depletion of the intracellular pool of reduced folates. These drugs are commonly used as antiproliferatives in several kinds of pathologies such as neoplasms, psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis. Their therapeutic use is however strongly limited by their high systemic toxicity, hence systems or more specific formulations allowing the administration of lower doses of the drug with a subsequent decrease of the toxicity are highly desirable.

Some of these N-GA derivatives have been linked to other molecules, in particular to macromolecules, such as serum albumine, or synthetic polymers, gelatine and some polysaccharides. For example, a poly-methotrexate-dextran has been prepared using a condensing agent (carbonylimidazole) (CA 2,009,695). This last reaction process does not allow the preparation of a structurally defined product because of the several different types of carboxylic and hydroxy groups, which react randomly. The structure of this product cannot be deeply elucidated, it is therefore only characterized by the amount of methotrexate present in the material isolated from the reaction mixture. In fact no evidence has been given about the position of substitution on polysaccharide. The same type of reaction process has been applied for the preparation of other polysaccharidic derivatives which again allow for the preparation of randomly substituted polymer (US 5,554,386). Another attempt to introduce methotrexate on a polymer in order to prepare a pharmacological active system is a conjugation reaction between the polysaccharide dextran and the drug which occurs via a spacer group. Anyhow, prior to said conjugation the dextran is modified with periodate and its original saccharidic structure is thus destroyed leading to a different polymer (Dang et al., Cancer Res., 54, 1729, 1994). Possible undesirable cross-linking reaction between the carboxylic and the amino groups of the methotrexate are envisaged in some of the reactions used in the prior art.

A class of polysaccharidic esters of the compounds of formula (I), commonly known as N-GA (N-derivatives of glutamic acid) represent the object of the present invention.

These N-GA compounds have the general formula:
wherein:

- \( R_2 \) and \( R_4 \) represent: -NH\(_2\), -OH, -OCH\(_3\), C\(_1\)-C\(_5\) alkyl, =O and the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is optionally aromatic;
- \( X \) and \( Y \) represent: -C(R\(_5\))=, -N= and the ring containing them is optionally aromatic, or they represent: -CH(R\(_5\))-, or -NH-, and the ring containing them is aliphatic,
- \( R_5 \) represents: -H, C\(_1\)-C\(_5\) alkyl;
- \( Z \) represents: -CO2H(R\(_{10}\))-, -N(R\(_{10}\))-, -O-;
- \( R_{10} \) represents: -H, C\(_1\)-C\(_5\) alkyl, C\(_1\)-C\(_5\) alkenyl, C\(_1\)-C\(_5\) alkynyl, heterocyclic ring with 5-6 members with 1-3 heteroatoms selected in the group consisting of nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen;
- \( Ar \) represents a 1,4-phenyl group possibly condensed with one or more 5-6 membered aromatic rings, possibly heterocycles and possibly substituted with \( R_2 \).

The polysaccharides used for the preparation of polysaccharidic esters are obtained from natural sources and only their primary hydroxy groups present on the monosaccharidic units are totally or partially esterified with the \( \gamma \)-carboxylic group of the compounds of formula (I).

The products of the present invention can be used in the pharmaceutical area as inhibitors of the cell proliferation and are therefore useful in the preparation of medicaments for the treatment of neoplastic, inflammatory or autoimmune diseases.

The present invention further comprises new pharmaceutical compositions containing said polysaccharidic esters as active compounds in combination with suitable pharmaceutical excipients and/or solvents and their use in the treatment and the prevention of diseases characterised by cell hyperproliferation.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The object of the present invention relates to a class of polysaccharidic esters of compounds of formula (I) commonly known as N-GA (N-derivatives of glutamic acid).

These N-GA compounds have the following general formula:
- $R_2$ and $R_4$ represent: -NH$_2$, -OH, -OCH$_3$, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkyl, =O and the 6-membered ring to which $R_2$ and $R_4$ are bound is optionally aromatic;
- X and Y are selected in the group consisting of: -C($R_3$)$_2$-, -CH($R_3$)$_2$-, -NH$_2$, -N=.

wherein $R_5$ represents: -H, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkyl and the ring including X and Y is optionally aromatic;

- $R_5$ represents: -H, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkyl;
- Z represents: -CH($R_{10}$)$_2$-, -N($R_{10}$)$_2$-, -O-;
- $R_{10}$ represents: -H, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkyl, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkenyl, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkynyl, 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring with 1-3 heteroatoms selected in the group consisting of nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen.
- Ar represents: 1,4-phenyl optionally condensed with one or more 5-6 membered aromatic rings optionally heterocyclic and optionally substituted with $R_2$.

[0015] In formula (I), depending on whether the rings are aromatic or not, the following situations may occur:

1) when the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is aromatic, then both the nitrogen atoms are: -N= and the carbon atoms substituted by $R_2$ and $R_4$ are respectively: -C($R_2$)=$=$ and -C($R_4$)=$=$ and $R_2$ and $R_4$ are different from =O; moreover the carbon atoms linked to X and Y and common to both rings, are respectively: -C(X)=$=$ and -C(Y)=$=$;
2) when the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is not aromatic, then both the nitrogen atoms are in the form: -NH$_2$, and the carbon atoms substituted by $R_2$ and $R_4$ are respectively: -CH($R_2$)$_2$- and -CH($R_4$)$_2$- or when $R_2$ and/or $R_4$ are =O, the corresponding carbon atom is not substituted by H, and either: a) the carbon atoms linked to X and Y are: -CH(X)$_2$- and -CH(Y)$_2$- when the ring containing X and Y is not aromatic; or b) they are -C(X)=$=$ and -C(Y)=$=$ when the ring containing X and Y is aromatic;
3) when the ring containing X and Y is aromatic then X and Y are: -C($R_3$)$_2$-, -N= and the carbon atoms linked to X and Y and common to both rings, are -C(X)$_2$- and -C(Y)$_2$- and the carbon atom linked to X and to -CH$_2$-$Z$- is not substituted by -H and the remaining carbon atom linked to Y is -CH$_2$-;
4) when the ring containing X and Y is not aromatic, then X and Y are -CH($R_5$)$_2$-, -NH$_2$ and either: a) the carbon atoms linked to X and Y (also belonging to the N-containing ring) are -C(X)$_2$- and -C(Y)$_2$- when said two N-containing ring is aromatic, or b) they are -CH(X)$_2$- and -CH(Y)$_2$- when said N-containing ring is not aromatic, and the carbon atom linked to X and to -CH$_2$-$Z$- is substituted by -H and the remaining carbon atom which is linked to Y is -CH$_2$-.

[0016] In the polysaccharidic esters according to the invention, only the primary hydroxy groups of the polysaccharide are partially or totally esterificated with the γ-carboxylic group of the compounds of formula (I). The γ-carboxylic group of N-GA is the one directly linked to -(CH$_2$)$_2$-.

[0017] According to a first preferred embodiment of the invention, when $R_2$ and $R_4$ are -NH$_2$ or -OH, $R_5$ when present represents: -H, -CH$_3$, the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms (-N=) is aromatic; Z is selected in the group consisting of: -CH($R_{10}$)$_2$-, -N($R_{10}$)$_2$-, wherein $R_{10}$ represents: -H, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkyl, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkenyl, C$_1$-C$_5$ alkynyl.

[0018] In a second preferred embodiment, when $R_2$ is =O and $R_4$ is -NH$_2$, the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is not aromatic; X and Y are nitrogen atoms (-N=) and the ring containing them is aromatic; Z is -N($R_{10}$)$_2$-, wherein $R_{10}$ represents: -H or -CH$_3$; Ar is 1,4 phenyl.

[0019] In a third preferred embodiment, when $R_2$ and $R_4$ are -NH$_2$, the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms (-N=) is aromatic; X and Y are nitrogen atoms (-N=), and the ring containing them is aromatic; meanwhile Z is -N($R_{10}$)$_2$-, wherein $R_{10}$ is -CH$_3$ or -H and Ar is 1,4 phenyl.

[0020] In a fourth preferred embodiment, when $R_2$ and $R_4$ are -NH$_2$, the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms (-N=) is aromatic; X and Y are nitrogen atoms (-N=) and the ring containing them is aromatic; Z is -CH($C_2$H$_5$)$_2$-, and Ar is 1,4-phenyl. The esterification between the compounds of formula (I) and the polysaccharide takes place between the primary hydroxy groups of the monosaccharidic units of the polysaccharide and the γ-carboxylic groups of the compound of formula (I) (N-GA).

[0021] The degree of substitution of these polysaccharidic esters ranges from >0 to 1, preferably from 0.005 to 1. The term "degree of substitution" (DS) indicates the number of moles of formula (I) compounds (N-GA) per number of moles of monosaccharidic units containing a primary hydroxy group. A degree of substitution corresponding to 1 represents a product having all primary hydroxy groups esterified with N-GA.

[0022] The polysaccharides used in the present invention are either anionic or neutral and at least some of their monosaccharidic units contain primary hydroxy groups.

[0023] The polysaccharides are isolated from different sources: animals, humans, plants, microorganisms and their native weight average molecular weight (MW) ranges from 1 x 10$^3$ to 2 x 10$^6$.

[0024] The polysaccharides have either a linear or branched structure and are composed of monosaccharidic units
such as: D-glucose, D-xylene, D-arabinose, D- and L-mannose, D-galactose, L-fucose, D-fructose, L-rhamnose, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannuronic acid, L-guluronic acid, L-iduronic acid, D-galacturonic acid, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine, N-acetyl-D-galactosamine, 3,6-anhydro-D-galactose, N-acetyl-D-galactosamine, 3,6-anhydro-D-galactose, 3,6-anhydro-D-galactose. These monosaccharides may optionally contain sulphate or acetyl groups.

The main polysaccharidic chain has a β-(1→3)- or β-(1→2) or β-(1→4)-D-glycosidic or α-(1→3)-, α-(1→4)-, α-(1→6)-glycosidic structure; the β-configuration is the preferred one. The side chains are preferably composed of D-glycosyl units bound with a β-(1→2), β-(1→3), β-(1→4), β-(1→6), or α- (1→4), α- (1→6) or even more preferably β-(1→6) bonds.

When the polysaccharide is neutral, it is preferably a glucan (a glucose polysaccharide) isolated from algae, fungi, plants, bacteria or yeasts. Preferred neutral polysaccharides belong to the class of β-(1→3)-D-glucans (polysaccharides of β-(1→3)-D-glucose) and are either linear or branched. Preferred examples of glucans that can be used in the present invention are: scleroglucan, lentinan, schizophyllan, pachimaran, curdlan, laminaran, pullulan. Said polysaccharides are produced in large amounts by algae, yeast and fungi. Among them scleroglucan is the preferred one. Scleroglucan is a β-(1→3)-D-glucan with a side chain constituted by a β-(1→6)-D-glucose unit at every third glucose in the main chain. This polysaccharide is mainly extracted from fungi, such as Sclerotium glaucanicum or S. rolfsii. Fungal fermentation represents a further useful way of their production.

When the polysaccharide is anionic, carboxylated polysaccharides, such as hyaluronic acid or its salts (dimeric unit composed of N-acetyl-D-glucosamine and D-glucuronic acid) are used. Pectin is another example of anionic polysaccharide. Pectin is a polysaccharide composed of D-galacturonic acid and D-galactose, where carboxylic groups can be partially esterified with methyl groups. Another class of anionic polysaccharides used in the esters of the present invention, are represented by sulphated polysaccharides, such as for example heparins, chondroitin sulphate or dermatan sulphate. Other examples of sulphated polysaccharides useful for the preparation of the esters of the present invention, are isolated from algae of the Grateloupia doryphora or G. filicina species as described in WO 98/23648. Other sulphated polysaccharides isolated from different algae belonging to the Grateloupiaeceae or the Codiaeace families or from other microorganisms can also be profitably used.

In case of the anionic polysaccharides, the esters of the present invention are optionally salfiied with alkaline metals (preferably Na and K), earth-alkaline metals (preferably Ca and Mg), transition metals (preferably Cu, Zn, Ag, Au, Co). Derivatized polysaccharides such as the one obtained by salification of the compound of the present invention, are obtained by processes known by the skilled artisan.

Optionally, the possible free hydroxy groups on the monosaccharidic unit of the polysaccharidic esters of the invention, are further modified by the introduction of one or more substituents selected in the group consisting of: lower C1-C6 alkyl, -COOH, NH2, -NH-COCH3, -SO3H, -OPO3H2, -COO-(CH2)n-COOH, -COOR, -COR, -OR, -O-(CH2)n-OCOR, wherein n=1-4 and R= C1-C10 alkyl. These substitutions can be easily obtained by processes known in the art, and chosen for example to modify the hydrophilic character of the polysaccharidic esters modulating their solubility.

The polysaccharidic esters of the present invention have peculiar chemical features consisting both in the presence of a double regioselectivity and in the maintenance of the native polysaccharidic structure. Furthermore, no spacer arm or chemical group is present between the N-GA and the polysaccharide.

As far as the double regioselectivity is concerned, the term "double" refers to both selectivity on the polysaccharide and on the N-GA. The resulting derivative is therefore unique. In fact, among the several hydroxy groups present on the polysaccharide only the primary hydroxy groups of the monosaccharidic units are esterified with N-GA. About the selectivity on N-GA, although this molecule contains two reactive carboxylic groups which show quite similar chemical reactivity, the derivatives of the present invention concern the products having only one specific carboxylic acid involved in the reaction and more precisely the γ-carboxylic acid, as confirmed for example by NMR spectroscopy. As a consequence, the derivatives of the invention have a tridimensional structure which is highly regular and defined. This feature provides a definite pharmacological advantage over the randomly substituted derivatives of the prior art. As a matter of fact the random substitution of the possible free either primary or secondary hydroxy groups lead to products with a variable activity dependent on the substitution pattern.

Furthermore, differently from the macromolecular derivatives of N-GA of the prior art, in the esters of the present invention the polysaccharide maintain the original native chemical structure. The starting polysaccharide is herein modified in the sense that new groups are introduced on the monosaccharidic units but the structural identity of the monosaccharidic unit is not modified. The integrity of polysaccharidic is hence preserved with the advantage that only known biocompatible metabolites are produced (native polysaccharide such as glucan or hyaluronan) after the in vivo hydrolysis of the ester linkage. According to a further embodiment, the present invention is related to the process for the preparation of the polysaccharidic esters of N-GA.

The esterification process of the compounds of formula (I) with the polysaccharides occurs by regioselective reaction of the activated primary hydroxy groups of the monosaccharidic units of the polysaccharide with the γ-carboxyl...
group of N-GA. By choosing the appropriate amounts of reactants, polysaccharidic esters with different degree of substitution are obtained. The process comprises the following steps:

1. activation of the primary hydroxy groups of the monosaccharidic units of the polysaccharide by halogenation with the obtainment of regioselective halogenated polysaccharide;
2. formation of ester linkage between the halogenated polysaccharide of step 1) and the carboxyl groups of the N-GA by displacement of the halogen atoms.

Step 1) is performed by suspending the polysaccharide in a suitable organic solvent under stirring for 1-5 hours at 25-100°C, followed by the activation of the primary hydroxy groups which is carried out in the presence of an alkyl or aryl halide in an organic solvent at temperature comprised between -20°C and 70°C under stirring for 1-18 hours; suitable halides are methanesulphonyl bromide, p-toluenesulphonyl bromide, methanesulphonyl chloroide, p-toluenesulphonyl chloroide; suitable solvents are dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, N-methylpyrrolidone. This reaction mixture can be optionally alkalinised up to a pH value between 9 and 11. At the end of the halogenation the mixture is neutralised and the halogenated polysaccharide is recovered by means of known techniques such as precipitation, drying, freeze-drying. When the polysaccharide is an anionic one it can be used either in the free or in the salified form, preferably in the salified form.

Step 2) is carried out by suspending in organic solvent or mixture thereof the halogenated polysaccharide obtained in 1), followed by addition of N-GA in the same organic aprotic solvent of mixture thereof, in the presence of a basic agent. The reaction is carried out at room temperature, under stirring for 0.5-3 days.

Suitable solvents are dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, N-methylpyrrolidone. At the end of the reaction the polysaccharidic ester of N-derivatives of glutamic acid is recovered by means of known techniques such as precipitation, drying, freeze-drying.

Further details about the halogenation of the polysaccharidic ester (step 1) of the process of the present invention are found in WO 99/18133, the conditions described herein can be applied to both anionic and neutral polysaccharides.

Other esterification reactions of the polysaccharide with the compounds of formula (I) which allow the double regioselectivity, such as reactions comprising protection and deprotection of the specific chemical groups on which the selective derivatisation occurs can be applied as well.

The esters of the present invention inhibit cell hyperproliferation and have a surprisingly low systemic toxicity.

In particular, the products of the invention are active in the treatment of all those pathologies and disorders characterized by cell hyperproliferation such as inflammatory, autoimmune or neoplastic diseases and in particular in inflammatory pathologies which are susceptible of neoplastic degeneration, such as intestinal inflammatory diseases, i.e. diverticulitis, Crohn's disease, inflammation of the colon, ulcerative colitis, as described in Levin et al. (J. Cell. Biochem. Suppl., 1992, 16G:47-50). The polysaccharidic esters of the present invention are used also in the treatment of synovial cell proliferation, which leads to degeneration of the articular cartilage, of the bone or the tendons, as described in Echanet et al. (J. Immunol., 1993, 151(9) 4908-4917). Such degeneration is frequent in articular diseases such as for example rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, psoriatic arthritis. The compounds according to the invention are used also in dermatological disorders characterised by abnormal cells proliferation and even in the control of secondary cell proliferation for example in the surgical insertion of prosthetic medical devices (for example cardiovascular stents, or others aids) or vascular disorders or in asthmatic attacks, myocardial infarct or pulmonary hypertension.

As far as antineoplastic disease are concerned the product of the invention can be useful applied for the treatment of several type of human tumors, such as for example ovarian carcinoma, lymphoblastic leukemia, lymphoma, choriocarcinoma, breast cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, osteosarcoma.

In a further embodiment, the present invention provides for pharmaceutical compositions containing the ester derivatives of the invention in combination with pharmaceutical suitable excipients and/or diluents. Said compositions the polysaccharidic esters of the invention may optionally comprise other known drugs with antiproliferative activity.
EXPERIMENTAL PART

EXAMPLE 1. Methods of determination of weight average molecular weight (Mw).

The molecular weight of the polysaccharidic reagents was analysed by HP-SEC (High Performance Size Exclusion Chromatography). The analysis conditions were:

- **Cromatograph:** HPLC Jasco PU-980 with Rheodyne 9125 injector. Column: TSK Pwxl G6000+G5000+G3000 (Tosohaas) 300 mm x 7.8 mm ID, 13, 10, 6 µm particle size; Temperature 40°C.
- **Mobile phase:** NaCl 0.15 M.
- **Flux:** 0.8 ml/min.
- **Detector:** LALLS CMX-100 (TSP Chromatix), Po = 150 mV; Differential Refractive Index 410 (Waters), Sensitivity 128x; Temperature 32°C.
- **Injected volume:** 100 µl

The samples to be analysed were solubilised in 0.15 M NaCl at the concentration of ca. 1.0 mg/ml and kept under stirring for 12 hours. Then, the solutions were filtered on a 0.45 µm porosity filter (Millipore) and finally injected in the chromatograph. The analysis allow the measurement of Mw (weight average molecular weight), Mn (number average molecular weight), P1 (polydispersity). The concentration of the polymeric samples solutions were controlled by means of the integral of the refractive index.

EXAMPLE 2. Preparation of halogenated scleroglucan

160 mL of anhydrous DMF was heated at 80°C and mixed for 1 hour under nitrogen. 1 g of scleroglucan having weight average molecular weight of 60000 (determined as described in ex. 1), was added and the system was mixed for three hours. The solution was cooled to room temperature. 9.8 g of methanesulphonyl bromide was then added at 0°C to the solution. The reaction mixture was kept under mixing for another 20 minutes and then heated at 80°C for 16 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the reaction as stopped by the addition of 30 mL of Milli-Q water. The mixture was neutralized with 3N NaOH, then concentrated under reduced pressure and finally poured into 800 mL of acetone. The product was collected by filtration, washed with acetone, suspended in distilled water and dialysed. The mixture was filtered and the solid material was dried in oven under vacuum at room temperature. Weight of the solid: 1 g.

The product was analysed with 13C NMR spectroscopy (DEPT) in DMSO-d6/TFA at 50°C. The signal of CH2-O (C6) of the polysaccharide which is involved in halogenation is present at 34.5 ppm, whereas the same group in the underivatised polysaccharide gives a signal at 61 ppm. The change in chemical shift provides the proof that the halogenation reaction took place on the primary hydroxy groups of the glucose residues.

EXAMPLE 3. Esterification of scleroglucan with the compound MT.

The compound MT of formula (I) carrying the following substituents: R2 and R4: -NH2, the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms was aromatic; X and Y are -N= and the ring that contains them was aromatic; Z was -N(CH3)-; Ar was 1,4-phenyl, was esterified with the halogenated scleroglucan.

150 mg of halogenated scleroglucan, as obtained in example 2 was dissolved in 15 mL of DMSO at 80°C. After 3 hours the solution was cooled to room temperature and 512 mg of MT in 10 mL DMSO was added. The reaction mixture was kept at room temperature under mixing, in the presence of a basic agent, under nitrogen and protected from light for 48 hours. Then the product was precipitated in 250 mL of acetone and collected by filtration, washed with acetone, suspended in distilled water and neutralized with 0.2 N HCl, and again precipitated with acetone. The solid was dried in oven under vacuum at room temperature. Weight of the solid: 80 mg.

Analysis of the product: FT-IR spectroscopy (Perkin-Elmer mod. 1750): band at 1730 cm⁻¹ (KBr pellet) typical of ester linkage. 1H NMR spectroscopy (NMR Varian Inova 500 -500 MHz): diffusion experiments on product dissolved in DMSO-d6/TFA at 23°C showed the presence of MT covalently bound to the polysaccharide. The product was analysed with 1H NMR spectroscopy in DMSO-d6/TFA at 50°C. From the analysis of the spectrum it is evident the modification of the signals due to the γ-methylene group of MT: the protons are not equivalent and they split into two multiplets (2.35 e 2.45 ppm) whereas the corresponding group of the starting MT (that is the MT not bonded to the polysaccharide) was characterised by a signal in the form of a triplet. The non equivalence of the γ-protons, due to the esterification of the carboxylic acid, is confirmed in the heterobinuclear spectrum 1H-13C HSQC (13C signal at 32 ppm).
EXAMPLE 4. Preparation of halogenated scleroglucan

[0052] 300 mg of scleroglucan with weight average molecular weight of 995000 (determined as described in example 1) was suspended in 40 mL of anhydrous DMF at 80°C and kept under mixing and under nitrogen atmosphere for 1 hour. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and then 2.9 g of methanesulphonyl bromide was added at 0°C. The reaction mixture was kept under mixing for another 30 minutes and then heated at 80°C for 16 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the reaction was stopped by the addition of 8 mL of Milli-Q water. The mixture was neutralized with 0.1 N NaOH, concentrated under reduced pressure and poured in 200 mL of acetone. The product was collected by filtration, washed with acetone, suspended in distilled water, and then dialysed against distilled water and then freeze-dried. Weight of the solid: 290 mg.

[0053] The product was analysed with 13C NMR spectroscopy which showed that the halogenation reaction occurred on the primary hydroxy groups as described in example 2.

EXAMPLE 5. Esterification of scleroglucan with MT

[0054] 90 mg of halogenated scleroglucan as obtained in example 4, was suspended in 20 mL of DMSO at 80°C. After 4 hours the mixture was cooled to room temperature and 293 mg of MT dissolved in 20 ml DMSO was added. The reaction mixture was kept to room temperature, in the presence of a basic agent, under mixing, under nitrogen and protected from light for 48 hours. Then the mixture was poured in 250 mL of acetone. The product was collected by filtration, extensively washed with MeOH, filtered and finally dried in oven under vacuum at room temperature. Weight of the solid: 90 mg.

[0055] The product was analysed with 1H NMR spectroscopy in DMSO-d6/TFA, which showed the presence of MT covalently bound to the polysaccharide as described in example 3.

EXAMPLE 6. Preparation of halogenated scleroglucan

[0056] 600 mg of scleroglucan with weight average molecular weight of 140000 (determined as described in ex. 1) was suspended in 40 mL of anhydrous DMF at 80°C, under mixing and under nitrogen for 1 hour. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and then 5.9 g of methanesulphonyl bromide was added at 0°C. The reaction mixture was kept under mixing for 30 minutes and then heated at 80°C for 16 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the reaction was stopped by the addition of 8 mL of Milli-Q water. The mixture was neutralized with 0.1 N NaOH, concentrated under reduced pressure and precipitated in 200 mL of acetone. The product was collected by filtration, washed with acetone, suspended in distilled water, and then dialysed against distilled water and then freeze-dried. Weight: 710 mg.

[0057] The product was analysed with 13C NMR spectroscopy which showed that halogenation reaction occurred on the primary hydroxy groups as observed in the compounds described in example 2.

EXAMPLE 7. Esterification of scleroglucan with MT

[0058] 500 mg of halogenated scleroglucan obtained in example 6 were suspended in 110 mL of DMSO at 80°C. After 4 hours the mixture was cooled to room temperature and 1.63 g of MT in 33 mL of DMSO was added. The reaction mixture was kept to room temperature, in the presence of a basic agent, under mixing, under nitrogen with exclusion of light for 48 hours. Then the product was precipitated in 250 mL of acetone and collected by filtration, washed with acetone, suspended in distilled water and neutralized with 0.2N HCl, and again precipitated with acetone. Weight of the product (RG4900): 470 mg.

[0059] The product was analysed with 1H NMR spectroscopy in DMSO-d6/TFA, which showed the presence of MT covalently bound to the polysaccharide as described in example 3.

EXAMPLE 8. Preparation of halogenated hyaluronan

[0060] 1g of tetrabutylammonium salt of hyaluronic acid with weight average molecular weight of 120000 (determined as described in ex. 1) was suspended in 50 mL of anhydrous DMF at 80°C and kept under mixing and under nitrogen atmosphere for ca 1 hour. The mixture was cooled down to room temperature and then 1.28 g of methanesulphonyl bromide was added at 0°C. The reaction mixture was kept under mixing for another 30 minutes and then heated at 80°C for 16 hours. The mixture was cooled down to room temperature and the reaction was stopped by the addition of ca 10 mL of Milli-Q water. The mixture was neutralized with 0.1 N NaOH, concentrated under reduced pressure and poured in 200 mL of acetone.

[0061] The product was collected by filtration, washed with acetone, suspended in distilled water, and then dialysed
EXAMPLE 9. Esterification of hyaluronan with MT

[0063] 50 mg of halogenated hyaluronan as obtained in example 8, was suspended in 5 mL of DMSO at 80°C. After 2-3 hours the mixture was cooled down to room temperature and 59 mg of MT dissolved in 2 mL DMSO was added. The reaction mixture was kept at room temperature, in the presence of a basic agent, under mixing, under nitrogen atmosphere and protected from light for 48 hours. Then the mixture was poured in 50 mL of acetone. The product was collected by filtration, thoroughly washed with MeOH, filtered and finally dried in oven under vacuum at room temperature. Weight of the solid: 70 mg.

[0064] The product was analysed with 1H NMR spectroscopy in DMSO-d6/TFA, showing the presence of MT covalently bound to the polysaccharide.

EXAMPLE 10. Effect of the compound of the invention on the activity of dihydrofolate reductase

[0065] Reagents and test samples were added to 3 ml disposable cuvettes to the required volume of distilled water in the following order: H2O (0.1-0 ml), 1.5 M Na-acetate buffer (1 ml), 1.8 M KCl (1 ml), 3 mM NADPH (0.15 ml), test solution in PBS (0-0.1 ml), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) (ca. 0.01 U/ml) (5 µl). All reagents were purchased from Sigma. The DHFR was introduced, mixed and incubated at 30°C for 2 min. The reaction was initiated by the addition of dihydrofolic acid (3 mM, 0.15 ml), and the decrease in absorbance with the time at 340 nm was followed. The test solutions contained: a) MT (defined in example 3), 2.2 x 10^-5 M, b) the compound of the invention as obtained in example 7 (RG4900) in amount corresponding to 2 x 10^-5 M MT equivalents.

[0066] A control reaction, which contained 0.1 ml of PBS as test solution was included.

[0067] The tested concentration of MT of 2.2 x 10^-5 M completely inhibited the activity of dihydrofolate dehydrogenase. The equimolar concentration, as referred to MT, of compound RG4900, did not inhibit the DHFR activity, as proved by a ΔA340 equal to the control reaction. However at the beginning of the reaction the rate of absorbance decrease is slightly lower in the presence of the compound then in the control. This observed residual inhibitory action of compound RG4900 on DHFR might be possibly ascribed to low amount of free MT present in the preparation. In conclusion, most of the DHFR inhibitory activity of is performed by MT, once released from the pro-drug after hydrolysis of the ester linkage in the appropriate cell compartment.

[0068] The conditions of esters hydrolysis have been studied by performing several experiments at different pH. The test of DHFR inhibition performed after the hydrolysis allowed to evidentiate the inhibiting activity of the hydrolysed system.

EXAMPLE 11. In vitro assay of the antiproliferative activity of the compounds of the invention

[0069] The antiproliferative activity of the polysaccharidic ester of compound RG4900 of the invention was tested on several tumor cell lines, such as: SK-OV-3 (human cell line): ovarian carcinoma cells, HT29 colon carcinoma cells (human cell line), NIH-H460 pulmonary carcinoma cells (human cell line), L1210 leukaemia cells (murine cell line). The above cell lines were grown as monolayer in RPMI-1640 medium (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis) supplemented with 10% FCS, at a physiological folate concentration (2 nM), in a 50 cm2 plastic bottle (Corning Industries, Corning, NY). The temperature of 37°C, under damp atmosphere containing 5% of CO2. They were passaged weekly into fresh medium. Before the beginning of the experimental tests, the cells in the exponential growth phase were removed from the flasks with a solution of trypsin. The cells were then seeded in 6-wells trays (30.000 cells/dish) in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% FCS. The cells were grown for 24 hours, in order to promote the adhesion, and the medium was then removed and replaced with the experimental medium. The cells were incubated for 72 or 120 hours. The experimental medium was prepared by diluting a stock solution in PBS buffer of the polysaccaridic ester of the invention at different final concentrations in a range of concentration comprised between 0-5000 µg/ml N-GA equivalent, in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% FCS. A comparative test was carried out with the corresponding N-GA in the concentration range 0-100 µg/ml. The antiproliferative activity was determined by means of the trypan blue colorimetric assay, which is proportional to the number of viable cells.

[0070] Table 1 shows the growth percentage of the cell line SK-OV-3 (ovary carcinoma), in the presence of the compound of example 7 (RG4900) after 72 and 120 hours of treatment. Each value is the average of 4 different tests. The concentrations of the compounds tested are referred to the amount of the MT present in the corresponding com-
pound. The experiments were carried out with a cell density equal to 30,000 cells/dish.

From the data shown above, it is evident that the polysaccharidic esters according to the present invention exert a high antiproliferative activity, which is time- and dose-dependent.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Concentration (ng/ml)</th>
<th>% survival (72 h)</th>
<th>% survival (120 h)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RG4900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>106.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.58</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>76.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>185</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>550</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1670</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the data above no effect due to the underivatised polymer (SC) is to be acknowledged.

Table 2 reports the effect on cell survival of SK-OV-3 ovary carcinoma both of the polysaccharidic ester and of the corresponding underivatised polysaccharide (scleroglucan, SC with MW: 140000). Tests were carried out after 72 and 120 hours of incubation and at a concentration of polysaccharidic ester corresponding to a 5 µg/ml concentration of MT.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Concentration (µg/ml)</th>
<th>% survival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RG4900 (72h)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(120h)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC (72h)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC (120h)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the data above no effect due to the underivatised polymer (SC) is to be acknowledged.

Table 3 shows the values of IC₅₀ (concentration necessary to reduce cell growth to 50% of the growth of the control) of the polysaccharidic esters of the invention and of a compound (AB1) prepared by derivatization of scleroglucan according to the prior art.

Counting of cell samples of the different tumor cell lines were carried out after 120 hours of treatment. The concentrations of the esters of the invention are expressed as the quantity of MT present on the polysaccharidic ester (ng/ml)

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell line</th>
<th>Compound RG4900 (ng/ml)</th>
<th>Compound AB1 (ng/ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SK-OV-3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1210</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HT29</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH-H460</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>Nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data showing table 3 demonstrate that a randomly substituted MT-scleroglucan (AB1) prepared according to example 3 of US 5,554,386 and tested as a comparison, presents very high IC₅₀ with respect to the compounds of the invention. This provides the clear indication that a strong positive effect on the anti-proliferative activity of the compounds of the invention is obtained by selective substitution of N-GA.
Claims

1. Polysaccharidic ester of the compound of formula (I)

![Formula (I)](image)

Characterized in that only the primary hydroxy groups present on the monosaccharid units of the polysaccharide are either partially or totally esterified with the γ-carboxylic group of the compounds of formula (I).

2. Polysaccharidic ester of the compound of formula (I)

![Formula (I)](image)

Characterized in that only the primary hydroxy groups present on the monosaccharid units of the polysaccharide are either partially or totally esterified with the γ-carboxylic group of the compounds of formula (I).
of nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen.
- Ar is 1,4-phenyl, possibly condensed with one or more 5-6-membered aromatic rings, optionally heterocycles, optionally substituted with R_2 as defined above; characterized in that only the primary hydroxy groups present on the monosaccharid units of the polysaccharide are either partially or totally esterified with the \(\gamma\)-carboxylic group of the compounds of formula (I) for pharmaceutical use represents: \(-H, C_1-C_5 \text{ alkyl}, C_1-C_5 \text{ alkenyl}, C_1-C_5 \text{ alkynyl.}

3. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 1 wherein:
- R_2 and R_4 independent from one another, are selected in the group consisting of: \(-NH_2\) and \(-OH\) and the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is aromatic;
- R_5 if present, represents: \(-H, -CH_3\);
- Z is selected in the group consisting of: \(-CH(R_{10})\), \(-N(R_{10})\), wherein R_{10} represents: \(-H, C_1-C_5 \text{ alkyl}, C_1-C_5 \text{ alkenyl, C}_1-C_5 \text{ alkynyl.}

4. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 1 wherein:
- R_2 and R_4 independent from one another, are selected in the group consisting of: \(-NH_2\) and \(-OH\) and the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is aromatic;
- R_5 if present, represents: \(-H, -CH_3\);
- Z is selected in the group consisting of: \(-CH(R_{10})\), \(-N(R_{10})\), wherein R_{10} represents: \(-H, C_1-C_5 \text{ alkyl, C}_1-C_5 \text{ alkenyl, C}_1-C_5 \text{ alkynyl.}

5. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 1 wherein:
- R_2 is \(\text{=O}\), R_4 is \(-NH_2\) and the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is aromatic;
- X and Y are \(-\text{N=}\) and the ring containing them is aromatic;
- Z is \(-N(R_{10})\), wherein R_{10} represents: \(-H\) or \(-CH_3\);
- Ar is 1,4 phenyl.

6. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 1 wherein:
- R_2 and R_4 are \(-NH_2\) and the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is aromatic;
- X and Y are \(-\text{N=}\) and the ring containing them is aromatic;
- Z is \(-N(R_{10})\), wherein R_{10} represents: \(-CH_3\) or \(-H\);
- Ar is 1,4-phenyl.

7. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 1, wherein:
- R_2 and R_4 are \(-NH_2\) and the 6-membered ring containing the two nitrogen atoms is aromatic;
- X and Y are \(-\text{N=}\) and the ring containing them is aromatic,
- Z is \(-CH(C_2H_5)\),
- Ar is 1,4 phenyl.

8. Polysaccharidic ester according to anyone of Claims 1-7, wherein the polysaccharide is neutral or anionic.

9. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is either linear or branched and is composed of the monosaccharidic units selected in the group consisting of: D-glucose, D-xylene, L-rhamnose, D-galacturonic acid, D-gluconic acid, D-mannuronic acid, L-guluronic acid, L-iduronic acid, D-fructose, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine, N-acetyl-L-galactosamine, 3,6-anhydro-D-galactose, 3,6-anhydro-L-galactose.

10. Polysaccharidic ester according to anyone of Claims 8-9, wherein the main chain of said polysaccharide has \(\beta-(1\rightarrow3), \beta-(1\rightarrow2), \beta-(1\rightarrow4)-\text{D-glycosidic structure or }\alpha-(1\rightarrow3), \alpha-(1\rightarrow4), \alpha-(1\rightarrow6)\)-glycosidic structure and the possible side chains are composed of monosaccharides bound with the configuration \(\beta-(1\rightarrow2), \beta-(1\rightarrow3), \beta-(1\rightarrow4), \beta-(1\rightarrow6), \alpha(1\rightarrow4), \) or \(\alpha-(1\rightarrow6).\)

11. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 10, wherein said polysaccharide is a \(\beta-(1\rightarrow3)-\text{D-glucan.}\)

12. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 11, wherein said polysaccharide is selected in the group consisting of:
scleroglucan, lentinan, schizophyllan, pachimaran, curdlan, laminaran.

13. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 10, wherein said polysaccharide is hyaluronic acid or its salts.

14. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 10, wherein said polysaccharide is a sulphated polysaccharide.

15. Polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 14, wherein said sulphated polysaccharide is extracted from algae of the *Grateloupiaceae* or the *Codiaceae* families.

16. Polysaccharidic ester according to anyone of Claims 1-15, wherein at least one hydroxy group of the monosaccharidic units of the polysaccharide is substituted with a residue selected in the group consisting of: C₈₋₆ alkyl, -COOH, -NH₂, -NHC(O)CH₃, -SO₃H, -OPO₃H₂, -COO-(CH₂)n-COOH, -COOR, -COR, -OR, -O-(CH₂)n-OCOR and wherein n=1-4 and R= C₈₋₁₀ alkyl.

17. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising as an active compound the polysaccharidic esters according to anyone of claims 1-16, in combination with suitable pharmacologically acceptable excipients and/or diluents;

18. Pharmaceutical compositions according to Claim 17 are in the form of solution or suspension.

19. Pharmaceutical compositions according to Claim 17 for parenteral, oral or topical administration.

20. Pharmaceutical compositions according to anyone of claims 17-19, wherein the parenteral administration takes place by intravenous, intramuscular, intrarticular and subcutaneous way.

21. Pharmaceutical compositions according to anyone of claims 17-20 in the form of gel, cream, powder, granular powder, tablet, pill, capsule or inserts.

22. Use of the polysaccharidic ester according to anyone of Claims 1-16 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and the prevention of diseases *characterised by* cell hyperproliferation.

23. Use of the polysaccharidic ester according to claim 22 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and the prevention of autoimmune or inflammatory pathologies.

24. Use of the polysaccharidic ester according to claim 22 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and the prevention of rheumatoid arthritis.

25. Use of the polysaccharidic ester according to claim 22 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and the prevention of dermatological diseases.

26. Use of the polysaccharidic ester according to claim 25 wherein said dermatological disease is psoriasis.

27. Use of the polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 22 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and the prevention of tumours.

28. Use of the polysaccharidic ester according to Claim 23 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and the prevention of intestinal inflammatory pathologies.

29. Process for the preparation of the polysaccharidic esters according to claims 1-16 comprising the following steps:
   a) Obtaining of a regioselective halogenated polysaccharide by activation of the primary hydroxy groups of the monosaccharidic units of the polysaccharide;
   b) Formation of ester bond between the regioselective halogenated polysaccharide and the carboxyl group of compound of formula (I) by displacement of the halogen atoms.

30. Process according to claim 29 wherein said activation in step a) is performed by halogenation of the polysaccharide.

31. Process according to claim 30 wherein said halogenation is performed in an organic solvent further comprising an alkyl- or aryl-halide.
32. Process according to claim 31 wherein said alkyl- or aryl-halide is chosen in the group consisting of: methanesulphonylbromide, p-toluenesulphonylbromide, methanesulphonylchloride, p-toluenesulphonylchloride.

33. Process according to claim 29 wherein in step b) the halogenated polysaccharide obtained in step a) is suspended in an organic solvent and then mixed with compound of formula (I), suspended in the same organic solvent, in the presence of a basic agent.

34. Process according to anyone of claims 31 and 33 wherein said organic solvent is chosen in the group consisting of: dimethylformamide, dimethylsulphoxide, N-methylpyrrolidone.

**Patentansprüche**

1. Polysaccharidester der Verbindung mit der Formel (I)

![Diagram](image)

Formel (I)

in welcher:

- $R_2$ und $R_4$ unabhängig voneinander ausgewählt werden aus der Gruppe bestehend aus $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{OCH}_3$, $C_1-C_5$-Alkylresten, $=\text{O}$, und der 6-gliedrige Ring mit den beiden Stickstoffatomen gegebenenfalls aromatisch ist;

- $X$ und $Y$ ausgewählt werden aus der Gruppe bestehend aus: $-\text{C}(R_5)=, -\text{CH}(R_5)-, -\text{NH}-, -\text{N}=, wobei R_5 -H oder einen C_1-C_5-Alkylrest darstellt, und der X und Y enthaltende Ring gegebenenfalls aromatisch ist;

- $Z$ ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe bestehend aus $-\text{O}-, -\text{CH}(R_{10})-, -\text{N}(R_{10})-, wobei R_{10} -H, einen C_1-C_5-Alkylrest, einen C_1-C_5-Alkenylrest, einen C_1-C_5-Alkinylrest oder einen 5- bis 6-gliedrigen Heterocyclus mit 1 bis 3 Heteroatomen darstellt, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe bestehend aus Stickstoff, Schwefel und Sauerstoff;

- $\text{Ar}_{1,4}$-Phenyl ist, gegebenenfalls mit einem oder mehreren 5- bis 6-gliedrigen aromatischen Ringen kondensiert, gegebenenfalls mit Heterocyclen, gegebenenfalls mit $R_2$ substituiert, das wie oben definiert ist;

**dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** nur die primäre in den Monosaccharideinheiten des Polysaccharids vorkommenden Hydroxylgruppen entweder ganz oder teilweise mit $\gamma$-Carboxylgruppen der Verbindungen mit der Formel (I) verestert sind.

2. Polysaccharidester der Verbindung mit der Formel (I),
Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei

- \( R_2 \) und \( R_4 \) unabhängig voneinander ausgewählt werden aus der Gruppe bestehend aus \(-\text{NH}_2\), \(-\text{OH}\), \(-\text{OCH}_3\), \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkylresten, \(=\text{O}\), und der 6-gliedrige Ring mit den beiden Stickstoffatomen gegebenenfalls aromatisch ist;
- \( X \) und \( Y \) ausgewählt werden aus der Gruppe bestehend aus: \(-\text{C}(R_5)\)=, \(-\text{CH}(R_5)\)-, \(-\text{NH}_-\), \(-\text{N}=\), wobei \( R_5 \)-H, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkylrest darstellt, und der \( X \) und \( Y \) enthaltende Ring gegebenenfalls aromatisch ist;
- \( Z \) ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe bestehend aus \(-\text{O}\)-, \(-\text{CH}(R_{10})\)-, \(-\text{N}(R_{10})\)-, wobei \( R_{10} \)-H, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkylrest, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkenylrest, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkinylrest oder einen 5- bis 6-gliedrigen Heterocyclus mit 1 bis 3 Heteroatomen darstellt, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe bestehend aus Stickstoff, Schwefel und Sauerstoff;
- \( \text{Ar} 1,4\)-Phenyl ist, gegebenenfalls mit einem oder mehreren 5- bis 6-gliedrigen aromatischen Ringen kondensiert, gegebenenfalls mit Heterocyclen, gegebenenfalls mit \( R_2 \) substituiert, das wie oben definiert ist;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass für pharmazeutische Verwendungen nur die primäre in den Monosaccharideinheiten des Polysaccharids vorkommenden Hydroxylgruppen entweder ganz oder teilweise mit \(\gamma\)-Carboxylgruppen der Verbindungen mit der Formel (I) verestert sind.

3. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei

- \( R_2 \) und \( R_4 \) unabhängig voneinander ausgewählt werden aus der Gruppe bestehend aus \(-\text{NH}_2\), \(-\text{OH}\), und der 6-gliedrige Ring mit den beiden Stickstoffatomen aromatisch ist;
- \( R_{10} \), wenn anwesend, \(-\text{H}\) oder \(-\text{CH}_3\) darstellt;
- \( Z \) ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe bestehend aus \(-\text{CH}(R_{10})\)- und \(-\text{N}(R_{10})\)-, wobei \( R_{10} \)-H, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkylrest, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkenylrest oder einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkinylrest darstellt.

4. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei

- \( R_2 \) und \( R_4 \) unabhängig voneinander ausgewählt werden aus der Gruppe bestehend aus \(-\text{NH}_2\), \(-\text{OH}\), und der 6-gliedrige Ring mit den beiden Stickstoffatomen nicht aromatisch ist;
- \( R_{10} \), wenn anwesend, \(-\text{H}\) oder \(-\text{CH}_3\) darstellt;
- \( Z \) ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe bestehend aus \(-\text{CH}(R_{10})\)- und \(-\text{N}(R_{10})\)-, wobei \( R_{10} \)-H, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkylrest, einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkenylrest oder einen \(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\)-Alkinylrest darstellt.

5. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei

- \( R_2 =\text{O} \) und \( R_4 \)-\(\text{NH}_2\) ist und der 6-gliedrige Ring mit den beiden Stickstoffatomen nicht aromatisch ist;
1. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei
- X und Y -N= sind und der sie enthaltende Ring aromatisch ist;
- Z -N(R_{10})^{-} ist, wobei R_{10} -H oder -CH_{3} darstellt;
- Ar 1,4-Phenyl ist.

6. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei
- R_{2} und R_{4} -NH_{2} sind und der 6-gliedrige Ring mit den beiden Stickstoffatomen aromatisch ist;
- X und Y -N= sind und der sie enthaltende Ring aromatisch ist;
- Z -N(R_{10})^{-} ist, wobei R_{10} -H oder -CH_{3} darstellt;
- Ar 1,4-Phenyl ist.

7. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei
- R_{2} und R_{4} -NH_{2} sind und der 6-gliedrige Ring mit den beiden Stickstoffatomen aromatisch ist;
- X und Y -N= sind und der sie enthaltende Ring aromatisch ist;
- Z -CH(C_{2}H_{5}) ist;
- Ar 1,4-Phenyl ist.

8. Polysaccharidester gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 - 7, wobei das Polysaccharid neutral oder anionisch ist.


10. Polysaccharidester gemäß einem der Ansprüche 8 - 9, wobei die Hauptkette des genannten Polysaccharids eine \( \beta-(1\rightarrow3), \beta-(1\rightarrow2), \beta-(1\rightarrow4) \)-D-glycosidische Struktur oder eine \( \alpha-(1\rightarrow3), \alpha-(1\rightarrow4), \alpha-(1\rightarrow6) \)-D-glycosidische Struktur hat und mögliche Seitenketten aus Monosacchariden bestehen, die mit \( \beta-(1\rightarrow2), \beta-(1\rightarrow3), \beta-(1\rightarrow4), \beta-(1\rightarrow6) \), \( \alpha-(1\rightarrow4) \) oder \( \alpha-(1\rightarrow6) \)-Konfiguration gebunden sind.

11. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 10, wobei genanntes Polysaccharid ein \( \beta-(1\rightarrow3) \)-D-Glucan ist.


13. Polysaccharidester gemäß Anspruch 10, wobei genanntes Polysaccharid Hyaluronsäure oder ein Salz davon ist.


16. Polysaccharidester gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 - 15, wobei mindestens eine Hydroxylgruppe der Monosaccharideinheiten des Polysaccharids mit einem Rest substituiert ist, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe bestehend aus: \( C_{1}-C_{6} \)-Alkylresten, \( -COOH, -NH_{2}, -\text{NHCOC}H_{3}, -\text{SO}_{3}H, -\text{OPo}H_{2}, -\text{COOCH}_{2}n\)-COOH, -COOR, -COR, -OR, \( -\text{O}-(\text{CH}_{2})_{n}\)-OCOR, und wobei \( n = 1-4 \) und \( R \) ein \( C_{1}-C_{10} \)-Alkylrest ist.

17. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzungen umfassend die Polysaccharidester gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 - 16 als aktive Verbindung zusammen mit geeigneten pharmazeutisch zulässigen Hilfsstoffen und/oder Verdünnungsmitteln.
18. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzungen gemäß Anspruch 17, die in Form einer Lösung oder einer Suspension vorliegen.

19. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzungen gemäß Anspruch 17 für parenterale, orale oder topische Verabreichung.

20. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzungen gemäß einem der Ansprüche 17 - 19, wobei die parenterale Verabreichung intravenös, intramuskulär, intraartikulär oder subkutan erfolgt.

21. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzungen gemäß einem der Ansprüche 17 - 20 in Form von Gel, Creme, Pulver, Granulaten, Tabletten, Pilulae, Kapseln oder Inserten.

22. Verwendung des Polysaccharidesters gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 - 16 zur Herstellung eines Medikaments zur Behandlung und Prävention von Krankheiten, die durch eine Hyperproliferation der Zellen kennzeichnet sind.


27. Verwendung des Polysaccharidesters gemäß Anspruch 22 zur Herstellung eines Medikaments zur Behandlung und Prävention von Tumoren.


29. Verfahren zur Herstellung von Polysaccharidestern nach den Ansprüchen 1 - 16, umfassend die folgenden Schritte:

   a) Erhalt eines regioselektiv halogenierten Polysaccharids durch Aktivierung der primären Hydroxylgruppen der Monosaccharideinheiten des Polysaccharids;

   b) Bildung der Esterbindung zwischen dem regioselektiv halogenierten Polysaccharid und der Carboxylgruppe der Verbindung mit der Formel (I) durch Austausch der Halogenatome.

30. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 29, wobei genannte Aktivierung in Schritt a) durch Halogenierung des Polysaccharids erfolgt.

31. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 30, wobei genannte Halogenierung in einem organischen Lösungsmittel erfolgt, das weiterhin ein Alkyl- oder Arylhalogenid umfasst.


33. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 29, wobei in Schritt b) das in Schritt a) erhaltene halogenierte Polysaccharid in einem organischen Lösungsmittel suspendiert wird und dann mit der Verbindung mit der Formel (I) vermischt wird, welche im gleichen Lösungsmittel suspendiert wurde, in Gegenwart eines basischen Mittels.

34. Verfahren gemäß einem der Ansprüche 31 und 33, wobei genanntes organisches Lösungsmittel ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe bestehend aus: Dimethylformamid, Dimethylsulfoxid und N-Methylpyrrolidon.
Revendications

1. Ester polysaccharidique du composé de formule (I)

![Formule (I)]

dans laquelle

- $R_2$ et $R_4$ indépendamment l'un de l'autre, sont choisis au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes : -NH$_2$, -OH, -OCH$_3$, alkyle C$_1$-C$_5$, =O, et le cycle à 6 atomes contenant les deux atomes d'azote est éventuellement aromatique ;
- $X$ et $Y$ sont choisis au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes : -C(R$_5$)=, -CH(R$_5$)-, -NH-, -N= dans lesquels $R_5$ représente -H, un groupe alkyle C$_1$-C$_5$, et le cycle comprenant $X$ et $Y$ est éventuellement aromatique ;
- $Z$ est choisi au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes -O-, -CH(R$_{10}$)-, -N(R$_{10}$)- dans lesquels $R_{10}$ représente -H, un groupe alkyle C$_1$-C$_5$, alcényle C$_1$-C$_5$, alcynyle C$_1$-C$_5$, un cycle hétérocyclique à 5-6 atomes avec 1 à 3 hétéroatomes choisis dans le groupe consistant en l'azote, le soufre et l'oxygène ;
- $Ar$ représente un groupe 1,4-phényle éventuellement condensé avec un ou plusieurs cycles aromatiques à 5-6 atomes, éventuellement substitués par $R_2$ tel que défini plus haut ;

caractérisé en ce que seuls les groupes hydroxy primaires présents sur les unités monosaccharides du polysaccharide sont estérifiés soit partiellement, soit totalement, par le groupe $\gamma$-carboxylique des composés de formule (I).

2. Ester polysaccharidique du composé de formule (I)

![Formule (I)]

dans laquelle

- $R_2$ et $R_4$ indépendamment l'un de l'autre, sont choisis au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes : -NH$_2$, -OH, -OCH$_3$, alkyle C$_1$-C$_5$, =O et le cycle à 6 atomes contenant les deux atomes d'azote est éventuellement aromatique ;
- $X$ et $Y$ sont choisis au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes : -C(R$_5$)=, -CH(R$_5$)-, -NH-, -N= dans lesquels $R_5$ représente -H, un groupe alkyle C$_1$-C$_5$, et le cycle comprenant $X$ et $Y$ est éventuellement aromatique ;
- $Z$ est choisi au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes -O-, -CH(R$_{10}$)-, -N(R$_{10}$)- dans lesquels $R_{10}$ représente -H, un groupe alkyle C$_1$-C$_5$, alcényle C$_1$-C$_5$, alcynyle C$_1$-C$_5$, un cycle hétérocyclique à 5-6 atomes avec 1 à 3 hétéroatomes choisis dans le groupe consistant en l'azote, le soufre et l'oxygène ;
- $Ar$ représente un groupe 1,4-phényle éventuellement condensé avec un ou plusieurs cycles aromatiques à 5-6 atomes, éventuellement substitués par $R_2$ tel que défini plus haut ;
caractérisé en ce que seuls les groupes hydroxy primaires présents sur les unités monosaccharides du polysaccharide sont estérifiés soit partiellement, soit totalement, par le groupe γ-carboxylique des composés de formule (I), destiné à un usage pharmaceutique.

3. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 1, dans lequel :
   - R₂ et R₄ indépendamment l’un de l’autre, sont choisis au sein du groupe consistant en -NH₂ et -OH, et le cycle à 6 atomes contenant les deux atomes d’azote est aromatique ;
   - R₅, s’il est présent, représente -H, -CH₃ ;
   - Z est choisi au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes -CH(R₁₀)-, -N(R₁₀)- dans lesquels R₁₀ représente -H, un groupe alkyle C₁-C₅, alcényle C₁-C₅, alcynyle C₁-C₅.

4. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 1, dans lequel
   - R₂ et R₄ indépendamment l’un de l’autre, sont choisis au sein du groupe consistant en -NH₂ et -O, et le cycle à 6 atomes contenant deux atomes d’azote n’est pas aromatique ;
   - R₅, s’il est présent, représente -H, -CH₃ ;
   - Z est choisi au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes -CH(R₁₀)-, -N(R₁₀)- dans lesquels R₁₀ représente -H, un groupe alkyle C₁-C₅, alcényle C₁-C₅, alcynyle C₁-C₅.

5. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 1, dans lequel
   - R₅ représente =O, R₄ représente -NH₂, et le cycle à 6 atomes contenant les deux atomes d’azote n’est pas aromatique ;
   - X et Y représentent -N= et le cycle qui les contient est aromatique ;
   - Z représente -N(R₁₀)- dans lequel R₁₀ représente -H ou -CH₃ ;
   - Ar représente un groupe 1,4-phényle.

6. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 1, dans lequel
   - R₂ et R₄ représentent -NH₂, et le cycle à 6 atomes contenant les deux atomes d’azote est aromatique ;
   - X et Y représentent -N= et le cycle qui les contient est aromatique ;
   - Z représente -N(R₁₀)- dans lequel R₁₀ représente -CH₃, ou -H ;
   - Ar représente un groupe 1,4- phényle.

7. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 1, dans lequel
   - R₂ et R₄ représentent -NH₂, et le cycle à 6 atomes contenant les deux atomes d’azote est aromatique ;
   - X et Y représentent -N= et le cycle qui les contient est aromatique ;
   - Z représente un groupe -CH(C₂H₅)- ;
   - Ar représente un groupe 1,4- phényle.

8. Ester polysaccharidique selon l’une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, dans lequel le polysaccharide est neutre ou anionique.


10. Ester polysaccharidique selon l’une quelconque des revendications 8 et 9, dans lequel la chaîne principale dudit polysaccharide a une structure β-(1→3), β-(1→2), β-(1→4)-D-glycosidique ou une structure α-(1→3), α-(1→4), α-(1→6)-glycosidique, et les chaînes latérales éventuelles sont composées de monosaccharides liés avec la configuration β-(1→2), β-(1→3), β-(1→4), β-(1→6), α-(1→4) ou α-(1→6).

11. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 10, dans lequel ledit polysaccharide est un β-(1→3)-D-glucan.

13. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 10, dans lequel ledit polysaccharide est l'acide hyaluronique ou ses sels.

14. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 10, dans lequel ledit polysaccharide est un polysaccharide sulfaté.

15. Ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 14, dans lequel ledit polysaccharide sulfaté est extrait d'algues des familles de Grateloupacées ou de Codiaécées.

16. Ester polysaccharidique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 15, dans lequel au moins un groupe hydroxy des unités monosaccharidiques du polysaccharide est substitué par un résidu choisi au sein du groupe consistant en des groupes alkyle C₁-C₆, -COOH, -NH₂, -NHCOC₂H₅, -SO₃H, -OPO₃H₂, -COO-(CH₂)ₙ-COOH, -COOR, -COR, -OR, -O-(CH₂)ₙ-OCOR où n a une valeur de 1 à 4 et R représente un groupe alkyle C₁-10.

17. Compositions pharmaceutiques comprenant en tant que composé actif, les esters polysaccharidiques selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 16, en combinaison avec des excipients et/ou diluants appropriés, pharmaceutiquement acceptables.

18. Compositions pharmaceutiques selon la revendication 17, qui sont sous la forme de solution ou de suspension.

19. Compositions pharmaceutiques selon la revendication 17, destinées à l'administration parentérale, orale ou topique.

20. Compositions pharmaceutiques selon l'une quelconque des revendications 17 à 19, pour lesquelles l'administration parentérale a lieu par voie intraveineuse, intramusculaire, intra-articulaire et sous-cutanée.

21. Compositions pharmaceutiques selon l'une quelconque des revendications 17 à 20, sous la forme de gel, de crème, de poudre, de poudre granulaire, de comprimé, de pilule, de gélule ou d'inserts.

22. Utilisation de l'ester polysaccharidique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 16, pour la préparation d'un médicament pour le traitement et la prévention de maladies caractérisées par une hyper-prolifération cellulaire.

23. Utilisation de l'ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 22, pour la préparation d'un médicament pour le traitement et la prévention de pathologies auto-immunes ou inflammatoires.

24. Utilisation de l'ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 22, pour la préparation d'un médicament pour le traitement et la prévention de l'arthrite rhumatoïde.

25. Utilisation de l'ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 22, pour la préparation d'un médicament pour le traitement et la prévention de maladies dermatologiques.

26. Utilisation de l'ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 25, dans laquelle ladite maladie dermatologique est le psoriasis.

27. Utilisation de l'ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 22, pour la préparation d'un médicament pour le traitement et la prévention de tumeurs.

28. Utilisation de l'ester polysaccharidique selon la revendication 23, pour la préparation d'un médicament pour le traitement et la prévention des pathologies inflammatoires de l'intestin.

29. Procédé de préparation des esters polysaccharidiques selon les revendications 1 à 16, comprenant les étapes suivantes :
   - (a) obtention d'un polysaccharide halogéné régiosélectif par activation des groupes hydroxy primaires des unités monosaccharidiques du polysaccharide ;
   - (b) formation de liaison ester entre le polysaccharide halogéné régiosélectif et le groupe carboxyle du composé.
de formule (I), par déplacement des atomes d’halogène.

30. Procédé selon la revendication 29, dans lequel ladite activation à l’étape (a) est effectuée par halogénation du polysaccharide.

31. Procédé selon la revendication 30, dans lequel ladite halogénation est effectuée dans un solvant organique comprenant aussi un halogénure d’alkyle ou d’aryle.

32. Procédé selon la revendication 31, dans lequel ledit halogénure d’alkyle ou d’aryle est choisi au sein du groupe consistant en du bromure de méthanesulfonyle, du bromure de p-toluènesulfonyle, du chlorure de méthanesulfonyle, du chlorure de p-toluènesulfonyle.

33. Procédé selon la revendication 29, dans lequel, à l’étape (b), le polysaccharide halogéné obtenu à l’étape (a) est mis en suspension dans un solvant organique et ensuite mélangé avec le composé de formule (I) mis en suspension dans le même solvant organique, en présence d’un agent basique.

34. Procédé selon l’une quelconque des revendications 31 et 33, dans lequel ledit solvant organique est choisi au sein du groupe consistant en du diméthylformamide, du diméthylsulfoxyde, de la N-méthylpyrrolidone.